

Stoney Creek High School Symphony Band

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Welcome and welcome back from what I hope was a safe, relaxing summer vacation. Please read the following syllabus very carefully, as it details quite a bit of procedure for the upcoming year.

Course Goals

Symphony Band is a performance ensemble for wind and percussion instruments that performs music from varying styles and time periods at numerous concerts throughout the year. This course should be a challenging and stimulating musical experience for students, which stretches skills in terms of technical ability, musical maturity, and overall musical development. These goals are accomplished through performing in different settings, in addition to non-performance aspects of music, such as composition, improvisation, music theory, ear training, historical understanding, critical listening, technology and writing about music. All of these facets are elements of the National Standards in Music Education, and are essential to developing overall musical ability as well providing a well-rounded educational experience.

Performance Calendar

10/16/25	Fall Concert, CB/SB Bands, Choirs	SCHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
12/16	Winter Concert, Band	SCHS	7:00 PM
1/7/26	Solo & Ensemble Clinics, Band	SCHS	3-6:00 PM
1/31 (Lg Ens) & 2/7	MSBOA District S&E	RHS	Various
TBD Feb	Music Booster Scholarship Auditions	SCHS	Evening
2/11	Pre-Festival Concert (8th, CB, SB)	SCHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
3/12-13	MSBOA Band Festival	SCHS	TBD
3/21	State Solo & Ensemble, Band	SCHS	All Day
5/6	Band Banquet	Twin Lakes	5-9:00 PM
5/12	Spring Band Concert	SCHS Auditorium	7:00 PM
5/18	Chamber Music Night w/Hart MS	The Hill (SCHS)	5-8:00 PM
5/28	Commencement	O'Rena (Oakland U)	TBD

Due to the performance based nature of this class and the limited number of performances we have throughout the year, all performances are required. Missing a performance will result in a loss of performance points for the semester. Exceptions are subject to the director's approval and are not considered unless:

1. You are excused by the director, pending written notification (signed by a parent or guardian) turned in at least two weeks in advance.
2. There is an unforeseen personal or family emergency (health issue, death in the family, etc.).

This is a performance-based class and as such, performing in concerts for the community is a primary focus. They are our opportunity to showcase our growth and demonstrate our classroom learning. While we try to accommodate for other events, we also expect that the few performances we have are given priority. If a student has followed the above procedures, an alternate assignment may be given. This policy is strictly enforced to ensure the success of the entire band. Just as a hockey team can not be effective without a goalie, so too are we not able to be effective as an ensemble if we have any missing parts for a performance. Each student is important and each person's contribution is essential to the success of the ensemble. Students are also required to stay for the entire performance, including other performing groups on the same concert.

Digital Communications

Our website, schsbands.weebly.com, is the center for our communications and information distribution. Visiting our website frequently will help keep you up to date on changes, news, and happenings in our band program. The Documents page on our website contains PDFs and electronic copies of anything distributed through the band program, including registration forms, calendars, in addition to MP3s and other helpful files. The Calendars page features an up-to-the-minute Google Calendar for both the Marching Band and Concert Ensembles. All our upcoming rehearsals and meetings are listed.

The Stoney Creek HS Band program also has an official Facebook group. In order to join, simply visit www.facebook.com/groups/StoneyCreekHSBands and click "request to join group". Once added, you will have access to important information and reminders, photos and recordings of events, rehearsals, and regular classroom news. We are also on Twitter and Instagram @SCHSBands, and have a YouTube Channel as well. ("Stoney Creek High School Band Videos")

Grading Policy

Performances: 30%

Assignments: 10%

Participation: 20%

Decorum: 20%

Chamber Music Project: 20%

Students will earn their grades through completing: tests/quizzes and assignments, attendance and decorum, and performances. Grades are based on points, with each assignment representing a fraction of the total. Extra credit opportunities are always available and encouraged. If extra credit is desired, it is the responsibility of the student to inquire about extra credit options at any given time.

Class Expectations include:

1. **Respect** every person and every item in our classroom, whether it be personal or school owned.
2. **Come prepared.** In other classes homework is a part of the course, it is no different in this course; only our "homework" is to practice. There are no shortcuts for repetition when building skills. When students come unprepared to play a part, it is the same as not having homework done in any other class. Rehearsal time is meant to address issues affecting the entire group, including interpretive decisions, matching note length, intonation, balance/blend, and listening skills. Bands that come to rehearsal prepared technically enjoy the process of developing a piece of music more. Students will be coached and equipped with tools to tackle even the most difficult musical passages, but it is the student's responsibility to be prepared. If you practice, you will succeed!
3. **Be punctual.** We tend to live by the saying "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late."

Every class is given a specific start time after the bell to allow for instrument assembly and individual warm-up. Students who are not ready by that start time are considered tardy.

4. **No food/drink.** Water is our exception; students are encouraged to keep water bottles by their seats.

5. **Do your best.** Making music is not always easy, but it is rewarding as long as best efforts are given at every opportunity. Students are expected to give their best efforts in each and class period.

Chamber Music Project

In the effort to build musical independence, students will spend some designated class time selecting and studying chamber music. This may be done in small groups, as a soloist, or both. Studying and playing chamber music gives students the opportunity to pick music that interests them, as well as have the chance to make music with their peers in a new context. Students may choose to learn as many pieces of chamber music as they wish. In order to showcase and document learning for this project, students may choose one of two options: participation in Solo & Ensemble or completion of a practice journal/recordings. If students choose to complete a journal, they will document their growth during each chamber music day by writing down what they have worked on for the period, how they have improved, and what goals they have for the next chamber music day. If students choose to participate in the Solo & Ensemble festival, they are not required to complete the practice journal, as their performances will serve as their documentation of growth. All students, regardless of which track they choose, will then culminate their Chamber Music Project at the end of the year with an informal performance in the Spring in conjunction with band students from Hart MS.

Class Materials

All students will be responsible for having all class materials each day for class. Materials include all necessary music, instruments in working order, instrument essentials (reeds, valve oil, cork grease, mouthpiece, etc.), and a pencil. If a student does not have their instrument, a written (electronic or hard copy) explanation signed by a parent is needed. If no explanation is provided, the student will be given an alternative assignment and can lose decorum points for the day.

If a student needs to borrow/use a school instrument, students may check out an instrument to use. If a student checks out a school instrument, a completed check-out form with the usage fee must be turned in before an instrument is given. Check-out forms can be found on our website, and are available in hard copy in the band room. Students are responsible for any damage the instrument takes on beyond normal wear & tear.

Uniforms/Folders

The standard uniform for all Stoney Creek Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras will be:

- Floor length concert gown with close-toed black dress shoes.
- Black dress pants, black socks/shoes, dressy belt, black dress shirt, vest & black tie (provided)

Students who wish to wear something else that is appropriate may do so with pre-director approval.

If you would like to wear a floor length concert gown:

- You may purchase your own (we will facilitate this)
- You may have one issued to you (dry cleaning fees apply)

If you would like to wear dress pants:

- You may purchase your own
- You may have a pair issued to you (dry cleaning fees apply)

All students must provide their own shoes, socks, and belts/dress shirts (if applicable). If you are in need of a black dress shirt, a group order will be placed at the beginning of the year.

Many students also choose to purchase a custom music binder with their name and Stoney Creek Bands engraved on it. We use folders in performance often, especially as sheet music is often larger than a standard sized folder. Students who purchase a folder can use these for their entire career in band.

Private Lessons

All students are greatly encouraged to take private lessons; many students in Wind Ensemble do study privately. Private lessons are a fantastic means for gaining individual attention, growth, opportunities, confidence, and success. A list of private instructors can be found on our website, and is also available in hard copy upon request.

Community Service Lessons Program

The SCHS Band Program is proud to once again offer our Community Service Lessons Program. This program empowers SCHS Band students to be mentors for the students in the Hart MS Band program. Any student in the SCHS Band Program is invited to sign-up and become a mentor. (Please note: 9th Grade students are only eligible to only work with 6th Graders.) Those students who become SCHS Band Mentors provide free, 30 minute lessons to our friends at Hart MS who are learning to play their instruments. In exchange for their service, SCHS Band Mentors are able to apply their experiences toward service points for National Honor Society, Key Club, Boy/Girl Scouts, as well as help Hart MS Band students to build confidence and friendships. This program has been extremely successful, and we are hoping to have even more students involved this year. If you are interested in signing up to be an SCHS Band Mentor, there is a Google form available on our website.



I am very excited about this year and our musical potential. I hope each of you finds joy in the journey of music through teamwork, positive thinking, and the process of improving skills through increasing abilities. If history is any indication, I'm sure this ensemble will continue to rise to all its challenges and discover even greater possibilities through making music together! Here's to a memorable and meaningful time in Symphony Band this year.

Lauren Staniszewski
 Director of Bands
 Stoney Creek High School

-----Detach and Return this Portion Only-----

Please sign below stating that you have read & understand the syllabus. Detach & return no later than Friday.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student E-Mail: _____

Parent E-Mail: _____